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Subject: Airlines Institute Additional Fees for Government Travelers

Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) Notification 20 November 2008 1000 EDT
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Issue: Many airlines have recently modified checked baggage policies and are moving toward instituting additional fees for other services.

Impact: Effective 12/05/2008, Government travelers on Delta domestic flights will no longer be exempt from the fee to check a first bag. (Exception: The first bag is free for Delta tickets purchased before 11/05/08 for travel on or after 12/05/08.) Additionally, United Airlines has instituted a fee for "human" customer service. While United is the only airline to apply this fee, others might soon follow. Costs for this service are non-reimbursable. DoD travelers should always contact the Commercial Travel Office rather than contacting the air carrier directly.

As a reminder, Military members traveling on official business are required to show military ID in order to check up to three bags with no charge. Weight allowance and size restrictions vary by airline. Military Services should ensure that members requiring excess accompanied baggage have "Excess Accompanied Baggage" authorized on the travel orders. Military members who do not have a Government travel charge card or personal charge card are strongly advised to request an advance if such charges are anticipated.

Suggested Action(s): Check airline websites for the most current information on policies and additional fees. For information about fee exceptions for government and military travelers, review GSA's Baggage Allowance Fact Sheet available at:

http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentType=GSA_BASIC&contentId=19374&noc=T

If you require additional support, contact your Commercial Travel Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Defense Travel Management Office